THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Joint exercises are conducted with various countries from time to time. The decisions to hold such exercises are taken by Government keeping in view our national interests. These exercises provide valuable exposure to the Armed Forces to keep abreast with the latest development in equipment, technology, warface tactics, concepts and doctrines relating to military operations, test the military skills of our Armed Forces in relation to others and promote mutual understanding.

Encroachment of runway in Chattarpur district, M.P.

†1539. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in Chatarpur district of M.P. the Nogaon Army Training Centre has got its old runway;

(b) whether this runway situated on N.H. 75 is lying as a wasteland;

(c) if so, whether the encroachers have occupied this land;

(d) if so, whether Government are considering to construct a boundary wall around it after developing the same; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The erstwhile runway is not in use as a runway.

(b) No Sir, the area is part of defence land under Military Station Nowgaon and is being used for training purposes by the units.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir. However the area has been demarcated by the boundary pillars.

(e) Does not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.